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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/408,761 09/29/99 DALE

R OLIG-020

EXAMINER

LUNDGREN, J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1631

DATE MAILED:

07/31/00

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HM22/0731

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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The reply filed on March 27, 2000 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because:

The originally presented claims (claims 1-15, now cancelled) are drawn to an array comprising a plurality of oligonucleotides, wherein the backbone structure of the oligonucleotides is modified such that the binding affinity of the modified oligonucleotide to a respective target has an increased binding affinity compared to the native oligonucleotide. However, the newly presented claims are now drawn to an array comprising a plurality of oligonucleotides, wherein the backbone structure of the oligonucleotides is modified at the 2' position of the ribose such that the binding affinity of the modified oligonucleotide to a respective target is substantially the same as the binding affinity (i.e., a measure scalable with  $T_m$ ) when compared to the native oligonucleotide.

This application contains sequence disclosures that are encompassed by the definitions for nucleotide and/or amino acid sequences set forth in 37 CFR 1.821(a)(1) and (a)(2). However, this application fails to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.821 through 1.825 for the reason(s) set forth on the attached Notice To Comply With Requirements for Patent Applications Containing Nucleotide Sequence and/or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosures.

A CRF, fully compliant with the above stated rules, is required for any search and examination to proceed. A fully responsive communication will contain both a proper election of a group, and 10 sequences, as well as fulfillment of the sequence rules, as required.

Since the period for reply set forth in the prior Office action has expired, this application will become abandoned unless applicant corrects the deficiency and obtains an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply outside the SIX (6) MONTH statutory period or obtain an extension for more than FIVE (5) MONTHS beyond the date for reply set forth in an Office action. A fully responsive reply must be timely filed to avoid abandonment of this application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Jeffrey S. Lundgren whose telephone number is (703) 306-3221. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM (EST), and alternating Fridays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM (EST).

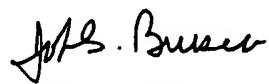
If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Dr. Michael Woodward, can be reached at (703) 308-4028.

Any inquiries of a general nature relating to this application should be directed to the Technical Center Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Papers related to this application may be submitted by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1631 using

(703) 308-0294. Please notify the Examiner of incoming facsimiles prior to sending papers to the aforementioned fax number. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG (November 15, 1989.)

Jeffrey S. Lundgren, Ph.D.

  
**JOHN S. BRUSCA, PH.D**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**